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LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia following the air strikes of NATO forces against the territory of the Republic of Srpska in the region of Gorazde.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

At its extraordinary session held today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. Radoje Kontic, the Federal Government reviewed the development of the situation after last night's air strikes of NATO forces against the territory of the Republic of Srpska in the region of Gorazde.

The Federal Government condemns most energetically the decision of the United Nations on the engagement of NATO air forces, which constitutes its direct inclusion in the civil war in former Bosnia-Herzegovina on the side of the Muslims.

The Federal Government emphasizes in particular that the United Nations Organization did so not only without carrying out the assumed obligation to demilitarize the Muslim army at Gorazde, but also after having tolerated the planning and carrying out of offensive Muslim military operations from the protected area against Serb positions in the region of Gorazde. Only after the Muslim spring military operation had been defeated did the United Nations Organization remember that Gorazde is a protected area and invited NATO bombers to act against the attacked Serb side.

It is regrettable that precisely the United Nations, the organization duty-bound by its Charter to preserve peace and international security, has taken a step which threatens the peace process and causes an escalation of war. By such a partial and bellicose attitude, the United Nations Organization has seriously discredited itself as a peace force in former Bosnia-Herzegovina and assumed the responsibility for all the consequences of possible further uncontrolled developments.

By behaving like a belligerent party, the World Organization is creating a dangerous precedent which can have long-term implications.

The Federal Government underlines once again that the way out of the crisis in former Bosnia-Herzegovina is not in the policy of double standards and the siding of the World Organization or other factors with any side whatsoever in the Bosnian civil war, but it is in equal treatment of all warring parties and impartial and unselfish assistance to the peace process. Each and every departure from this principle serves only to strengthen the Muslim side in its conviction that by persistently sabotaging peace efforts and by continuing military hostilities it can win the civil war and impose the concept of a unitary Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Federal Government calls on the United Nations Organization to immediately abandon the irresponsible and dangerous policy of joining the war on the side of the Muslims and to struggle against war and for an unconditional immediate and lasting cessation of fighting by peace, not by war.

Consistent with its principled and peaceful policy in the solution of the crisis in former Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will

continue to render necessary support to all constructive efforts aimed at reducing the current tension, to unconditional and lasting cessation of hostilities and to a just and comprehensive political solution of the crisis in former Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Federal Government recalls also on this occasion the solidarity of all citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with the Serb people in the Republic of Srpska, the victim of the most recent aggression.